



SOUTH ATLANTIC COASTAL STUDY NEWSLETTER



July/August/September/October 2021

Vol. 2, No. 4, November 2021

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REGIONAL PROJECT MANAGER UPDATE

by Ashleigh Fountain, Senior Project Manager

SACS Stakeholders, it is an honor to be taking over as the Regional Project Manager from Pam Castens who successfully led this extremely talented team since the study initiated back in August 2018. This is an exciting time, as we are in the home stretch - SACS is scheduled to conclude in less than a year! We hope you had a chance to check out our Draft Report products on our SACS webpage. If you didn't catch one of our District Report Roll-Out Webinars, the presentations are posted to our webpage as well. Thank you for your continued interest in the SACS!



Farewell to Pam Castens! Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the South Atlantic Coastal Study and the draft report release! You will be missed!

WHAT'S NEW?

The comment period for our SACS Draft Report just concluded. Announcement of availability of the documents were made via email, the Federal Register, our webpage, and social media.

The team is now reviewing comments received and all documents are still available on our SACS webpage.

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LEAD PLANNER UPDATE *by Matt Schrader, Planning Technical Lead*

With the final draft report roll-out, additional SACS products are being made available to help USACE and stakeholders assess, communicate, and address risk. Tools such as the Measures and Cost Library (MCL) are available through the SACS website (<https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/SACS/>) while data and geospatial products are available through the website or the SACS geoportal (<https://data-sacs.opendata.arcgis.com/>).

Recent **examples** of how **SACS products** are helping the USACE and stakeholders **assess, communicate, and address risk** include:

- The SACS Measures & Cost Library (MCL) is being used by USACE-Wilmington District to support initial screening of coastal storm risk management measures on three separate feasibility studies in North Carolina: Neuse River Basin, Carolina Beach, and Wrightsville Beach.
- The Coastal Hazards System (CHS) is being used for a sea level rise vulnerability analysis for Camden County, Georgia led by USACE-Savannah District. Coastal Hazard System data was used to generate water surface grids for the 10% and 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) events for Camden County based on NOAA Intermediate High Sea Level Rise projections for the years 2050, 2075, and 2100. Using CHS vastly improves the ability to assess potential storm surge inundation in back bay areas as opposed to typical “bathtub” approaches. The inundation layers were intersected with infrastructure data provided by Camden County and sourced from national-level datasets to assess potential future impacts to infrastructure. The data were published to a web mapping application for visualization and use by Camden County, USACE, and other interested stakeholders.
- The “Florida Coastal Resilience Workshop for Planners and Engineers” is a Silver Jackets initiative for 2022 which will provide hands-on training with tools developed by state and federal agencies. USACE-Jacksonville District, NOAA, other federal agencies and the State of Florida Departments of Emergency Management, Environmental Protection, and Economic Opportunity are partnering to develop and provide the training to community and regional planners and engineers. SACS tools covered in the training will likely include the Coastal Hazards System (CHS) and Tier 2 Economic Risk Assessment.
- USACE-Charleston District plans to use the Tier 1 Risk Assessment to support upcoming work related to coastal storm surge risk to populations, infrastructure, and environmental resources in South Carolina.



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ENGINEERING UPDATE

by Andrew “Drew” Condon, Ph.D., P.E., Engineering Technical Lead

Coastal Hazards System data for all three SACS study basins now available through the CHS website

For each study basin Annual Exceedance Frequency is available at thousands of save point locations throughout the basin for water levels, wave heights, and wave periods for current day and future sea level. These values are developed from hundreds to thousands of synthetic storms generated to cover the probabilistic range of possible storm characteristics. Additionally, the Time Series and Peak values for a number of hydrodynamic and wave parameters for each of the synthetic storms modeled are available through the CHS.

GIS LEAD UPDATE

by Trevor Lancaster, GISP, GIS Technical Lead

SACS Map Services – Server Upgrade

We are in the process of migrating SACS map services to a new ArcGIS Server instance. Please reference the service directory <https://ags03.sec.usace.army.mil/server/rest/services/SACS> to incorporate SACS REST endpoints into any web mapping applications that may be consuming SACS services. If you have any questions, please contact me at trevor.r.lancaster@usace.army.mil



<https://chs.erdcdren.mil/Home/Index>

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Charleston District

Diane Perkins

The draft SACS report was released on 15 October for public review, and Charleston District gave a webinar on 26 October regarding the SACS Main Report and the South Carolina State Appendix. Though these were the main focus of the webinar, it was also mentioned that the Geoportal and the Measures and Costs Library tool are available through links on the SACS website. In the webinar, examples of the information these tools helped to provide to the SACS analyses were provided as well as examples of the Coastal Hazard System results for South Carolina. Webinar attendees expressed interest in the Coastal Hazard System as well as in the Geoportal. The webinar also identified high-risk areas in South Carolina, and a few of South Carolina's many recommendations were highlighted. Stakeholder feedback at this time is important to help us make sure we get the South Carolina recommendations right. The recommendations were based on stakeholder input gathered over the past couple years and during the comment period, which has since closed. We're looking to stakeholders to help with any updates or refinements that may be needed.



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Savannah District

Jeffrey Schwindaman

Georgia stakeholders, this update is all about you! The Georgia SACS team has worked hard over the past months to release the draft SACS report on October 15, 2021. We appreciate your feedback. Your review and comments are critical to ensuring that the coastal storm risks in our state are accurately communicated and that there's a firm groundwork established to manage those risks. The recommendations will support future actions for coastal storm risk management and we need your help to guide those recommendations. Stakeholder participation has always been at the center of the SACS and this comment period is a key piece of that. In addition to the Main Report and Technical Appendices, Georgia readers will want to focus attention on the Georgia Appendix and the Focus Area Action Strategy reports for Chatham County and Glynn County. We look forward to your participation and thank you for being a critical member of the Georgia SACS team!



Mobile District

Meredith Ladart

Greetings Stakeholders! I hope you were able to attend one of the Draft Report roll out webinars that were held in October. We are looking forward to receiving your feedback on the analysis and strategies to reduce coastal storm risk along Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle. We truly appreciate all the input our stakeholders have provided along the way. We will be working over the coming weeks to review and address your comments and update the Focus Area Action Strategies and recommendations as needed. As always, we appreciate our stakeholders input. Please reach out at any time for questions or potential actions. Happy Fall!



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Wilmington District Brennan Dooley

The Wilmington District is very excited about the release of the draft report to the public which occurred on October 15, 2021. The District held a rollout webinar on October 20, 2021 and many of our important stakeholders were online to learn about the release of the reports and products. We are looking forward to reviewing comments on how we can improve our products and appreciate your involvement. We are also continuing to coordinate with stakeholders on the implementation of our Focus Area Action Strategies.



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